

Hate crime reporting

Bridging the gap between aspiration
and implementation

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| Aims

- Review key points from Hate Crime Action Plan
- Examine the challenges to Hate Crime reporting
- Identify potential improvements

Policy backdrop

Hampered by good intentions?



| Key points from the Hate Crime Action Plan - 2014

- 42,236 hate crimes were recorded by police forces in England and Wales in 2012/13
- This represents 15% of the 278,000 estimated hate crimes each year*
- Three core principles: prevention; **increase reporting and access to support**; improving the operational response

*Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2011/12 and 2012/13

Challenges

What's changed since the Lawrence Inquiry Report?

- Widening scope of what constitutes a Hate Crime
- Expanding plethora of reasons why victims don't report
- Third party reporting centres have failed to live up to their promise

Widening scope - Complexity/diversity of support needs

Race	Gypsies and Travellers	Faith	Sexual Orientation	Gender Identity	Disability
Language support	Building a positive relationship with police	Restorative justice - so can tell perpetrator how it makes you feel	Support that acknowledges that family support may not be available	Support that acknowledges that family support may not be available	Within community facilitated awareness of HC procedures/ support
Within community facilitated awareness of HC procedures/ support	Community facilitated interaction with Police	Acknowledgement of wrong doing	Having access to someone who knows the procedures	Privacy guaranteed should it go to court. Screens etc.	More general sessions 'taking care' of oneself' and 'real friends'
More positive contact with police	<i>Tenancy support for newly accommodated and peer mentoring networks – supporting transition to bricks and mortar</i>		Acknowledgement of wrong doing	<i>Women seek support from personal contacts for homophobic and transphobic</i>	<i>Perpetrators tend to be older than for other hate crime and women – someone close, carer, friend, teacher</i>
Support from person of same ethnic group			Due process conducted		
			Young people more vulnerable	<i>Workplace – common for victimisation</i>	<i>Someone to advocate – learning disabilities</i>

Expanding plethora....some less well known reasons...?

Loss of face

“...reporting to police is affected by the potential of losing face by going to a police station. In Chinese culture, 'losing face' means that one has lost their dignity, social standing, honour, and trustworthiness and bring shame on the family.”

Police as an organ of state repression

“The biggest barrier is the Polish history of being a communist state for 50 years, Police in Poland not as respected as here in UK. The Police in Poland were an organ of the regime, so we have no trust in the Police”

Family pressure *not to report*

Among Gypsy Travellers due to long standing mistrust and suspicion of the police

(Wong, Christmann et al 2013)

'In-efficacy' of third party reporting centres

- Low level of awareness among victims and vulnerable groups
- Staff not aware they were reporting centres
- Limited / No use by victims
- Meagre resources for promotion - out of date information (one centre had closed down 3 years previously)
- Reporting processes 'not fit for purpose'
- High staff turnover
- Limited / No accountability
- Grandstanding

Victim Support 2005, Swift 2005, Wong and Christmann 2008, Roulstone and Thomas 2009, Wong 2009, Christmann and Wong 2011; JUST West Yorkshire 2012; Wong, Christmann et al 2013;

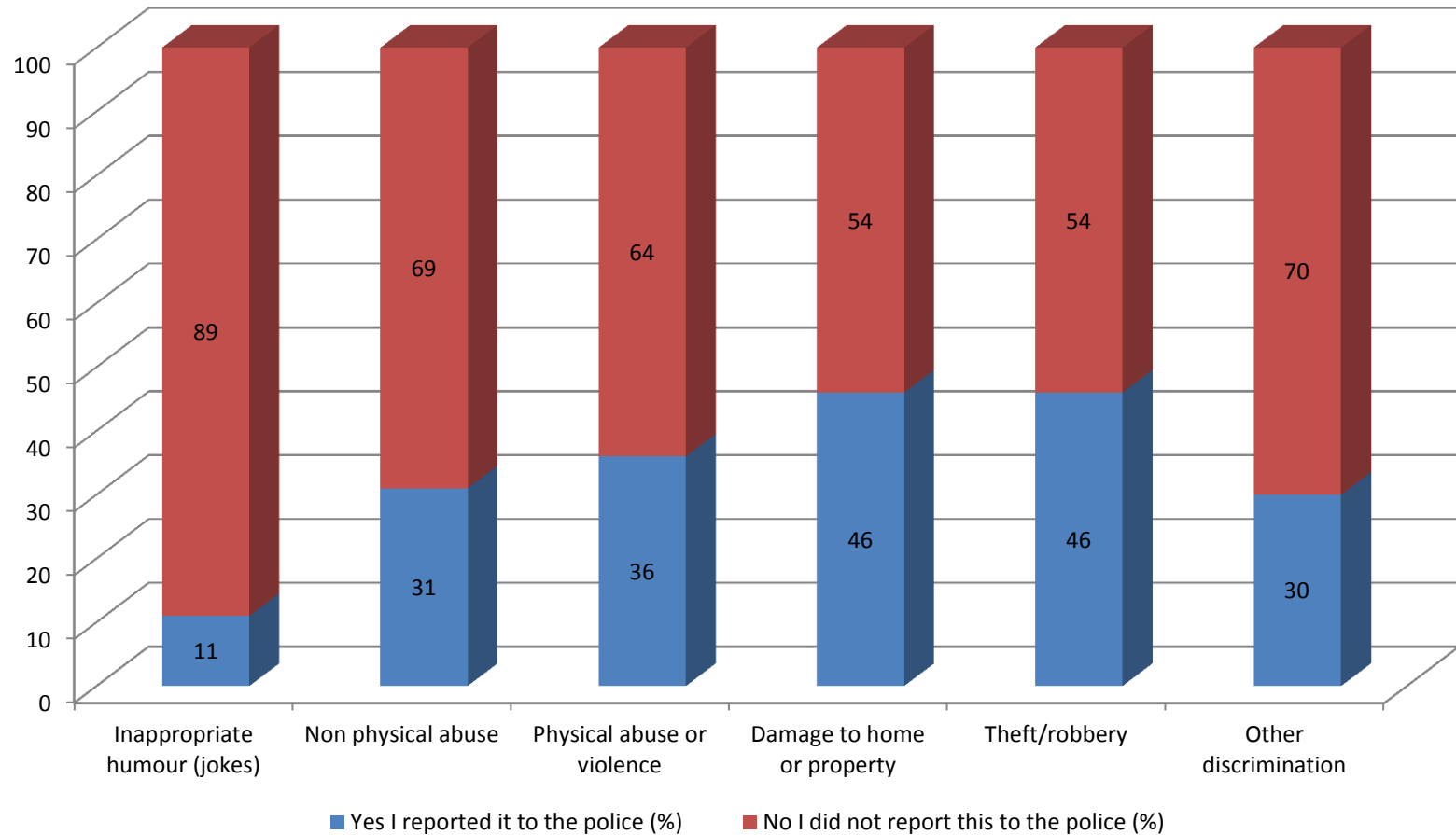
Arguably what hasn't changed...much

- Victims tend not to report less serious crimes - Hate crime or any crime*
- Low expectations of police efficacy
- A bad experience of the police is considerably greater (by 4 to 14 times) than a positive experience**
- Victim desire for anonymity/fear of reprisal

*Smith et al 2012

**Skogan 2006

Individuals are more likely to report more serious incidents



Low expectations of the police...

1. **Seriousness** – a third indicated that the incident was not serious enough
2. **Perceived attitude of the police** – almost a third (29%) indicated that the police would not take the report seriously
3. **Hate crime is a common occurrence** – almost a third (28%) indicated this was something that just happened
4. **Nothing the police can do** – one in five
5. **Fear of reprisal** – 16% feared that reporting to the police would make matters worse
6. **Reporting process** – difficult for some people – e.g. people with learning difficulties – perpetrators could be carers

|...unrealistic expectations of the police..?

- **8 out of 10** expected the police to ***catch and convict*** for more serious crimes (physical abuse/violence, damage to home/property and theft/robbery)
- **6 out of 10** expected the police to ***'catch and convict'*** for non physical abuse (verbal abuse, abuse my social media)
- **Over a third** expected the police to ***'catch and convict'*** for inappropriate humour, **almost a half** for 'other discrimination'
- **Only 1 in 5 to a third** expected police to be *sympathetic and sensitive* – **less likely** for more serious crimes/incidents
- **Only 1 in 6 to 1 in 4 wanted** to be directed for *extra support* – less likely for more serious crimes/incidents

Wong, Christmann et al 2013

Potential improvements

| Reconfigure what we do?

- More realistic policy aims/outcome
- Better/more useful measurement
- Focus efforts on encouraging reporting to the police
- Re-think the use of third party reporting centres and/or make them more accountable

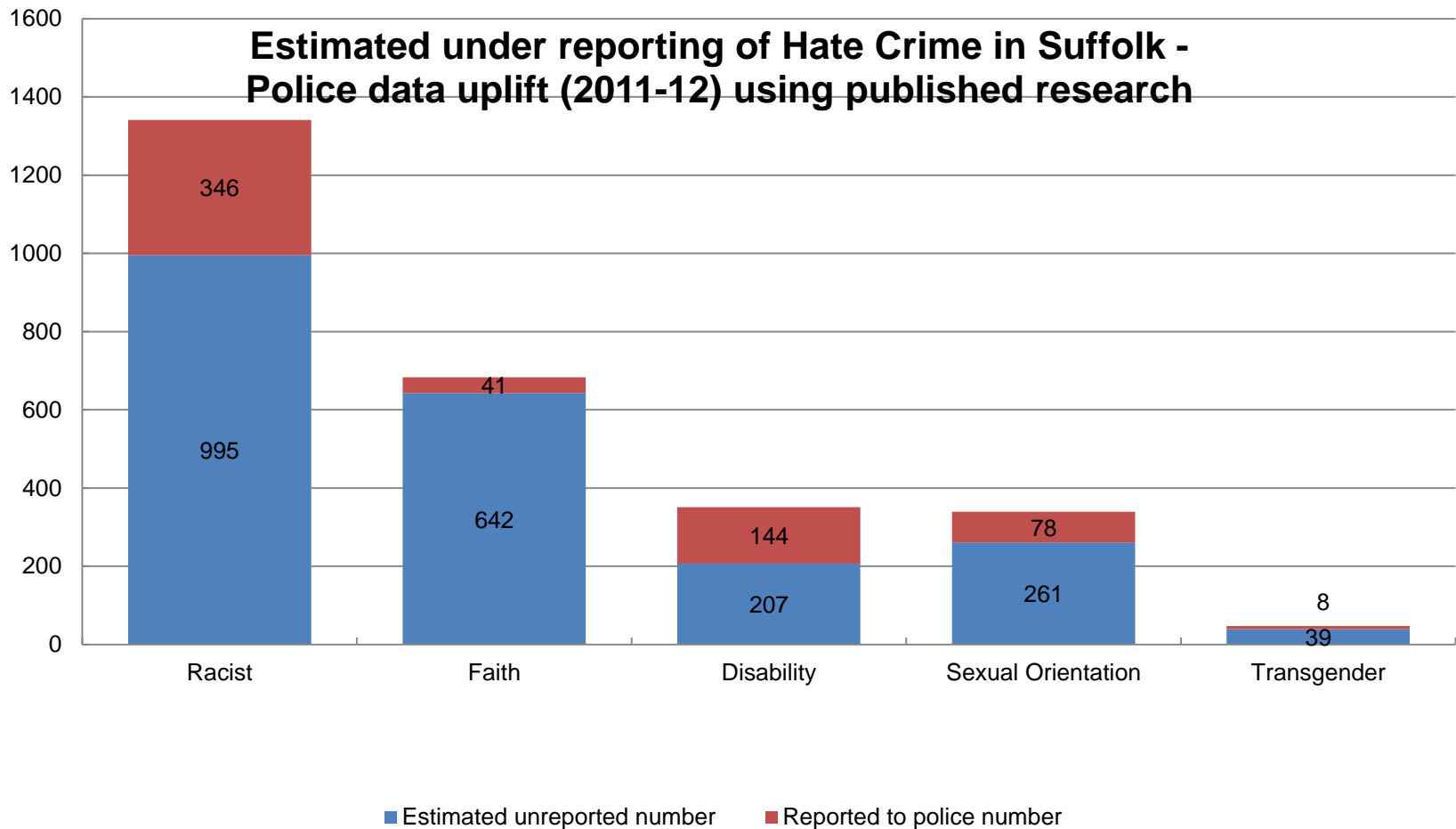
| Realistic aims?

Accept that full reporting of Hate Crimes by all victims is unrealistic

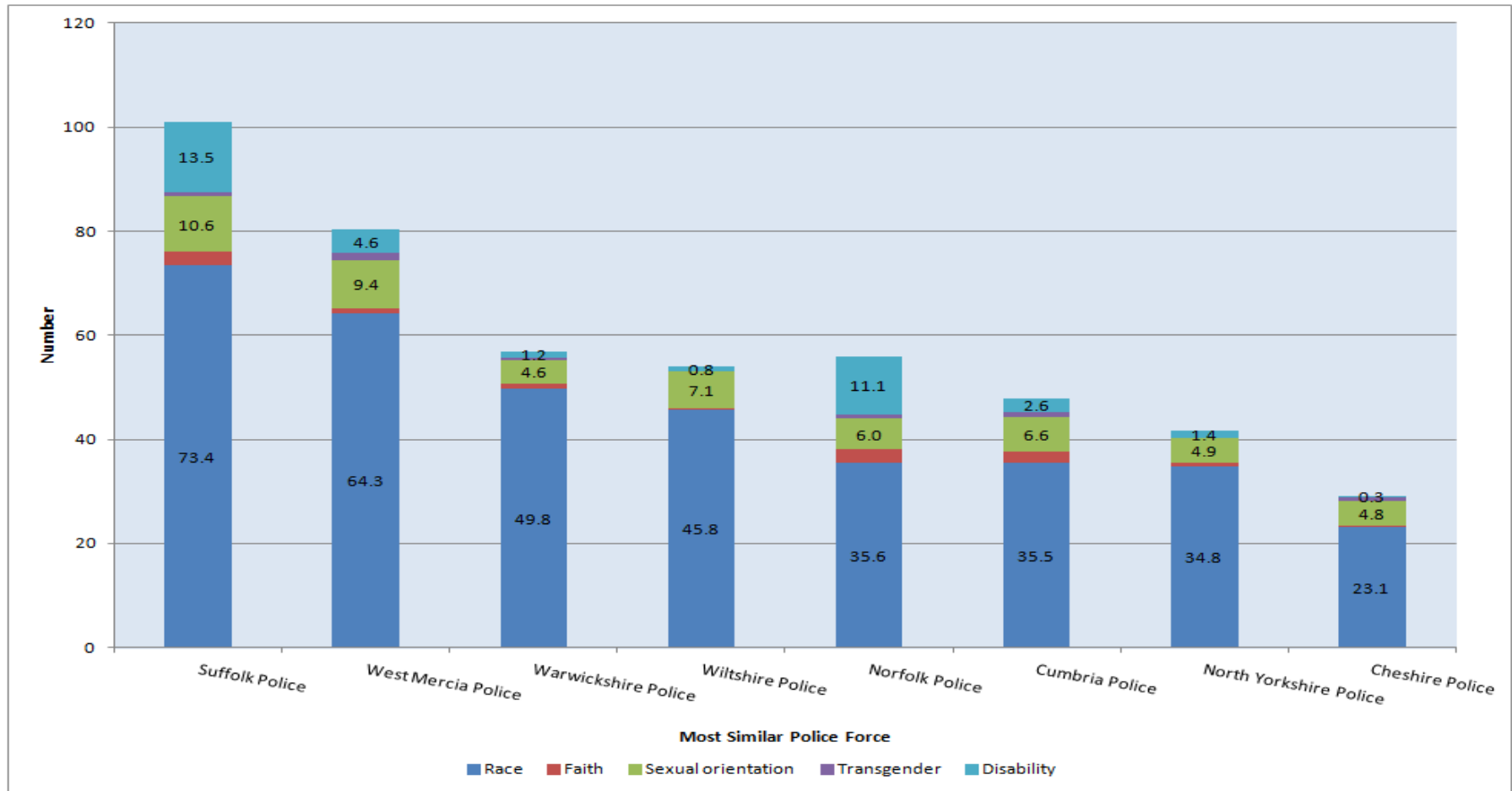
Focus on victims that you can most readily influence:

- Individuals involved with services that provide support to vulnerable groups
- Victims of serious crime
- Repeat victims
- Importance of 'hidden gate-keepers'

Set a target to improve reporting?



Benchmarking - performing better or worse than others?



Level	Cost/benefit consideration	Normative consideration
Geographic entity		
<i>Micro level</i>	Knowledge about offender	Victim offender relationship
Situation	Perceived risk of retribution by offender	Victim precipitation
	Amount of injury	Guilt
	Amount of loss	Shame
	Means of contacting police	
	Distance from event in time or space	
	Perceived likelihood of police response	
<i>Meso-level</i>	Availability of (community organisations) for self help	Attachments to family & friends, area or organisation
Family & friends, neighbourhood, community, organisation, jurisdiction	Knowledge about area	Reputation
	Reputation	Norms regarding self help
	Knowledge of alternatives	Policies for handling crime incidents
	Private security	
<i>Macro level</i>	Availability of (community organisations) for self help	Legitimacy of police or government
State, nation	Police competence (responsiveness, efficiency)	Norms regarding self help (individualism v collectivism)

| Encouraging reporting to the Police ..

- Police organisational side factors:
 - Victims still need convincing re:
 - Police attitudes
 - Police willingness to act
 - Police effectiveness (inc address fear of reprisals)
- Monitored groups can have specific support needs
 - Race: }
 - Gypsy/traveller: }
 - Gender identity: Guaranteed privacy

trust building and more +ve

contact with Police

What to do with reporting centres?

Problem	Potential solution
Limited or no accountability	Collect data on their performance
Low level of awareness among victims/vulnerable groups	Consider focussing resources and efforts on a single or fewer better resourced centres
Meagre resources for promotion	As above
Poor consistency and standard of reporting process	As above

| Thank you.

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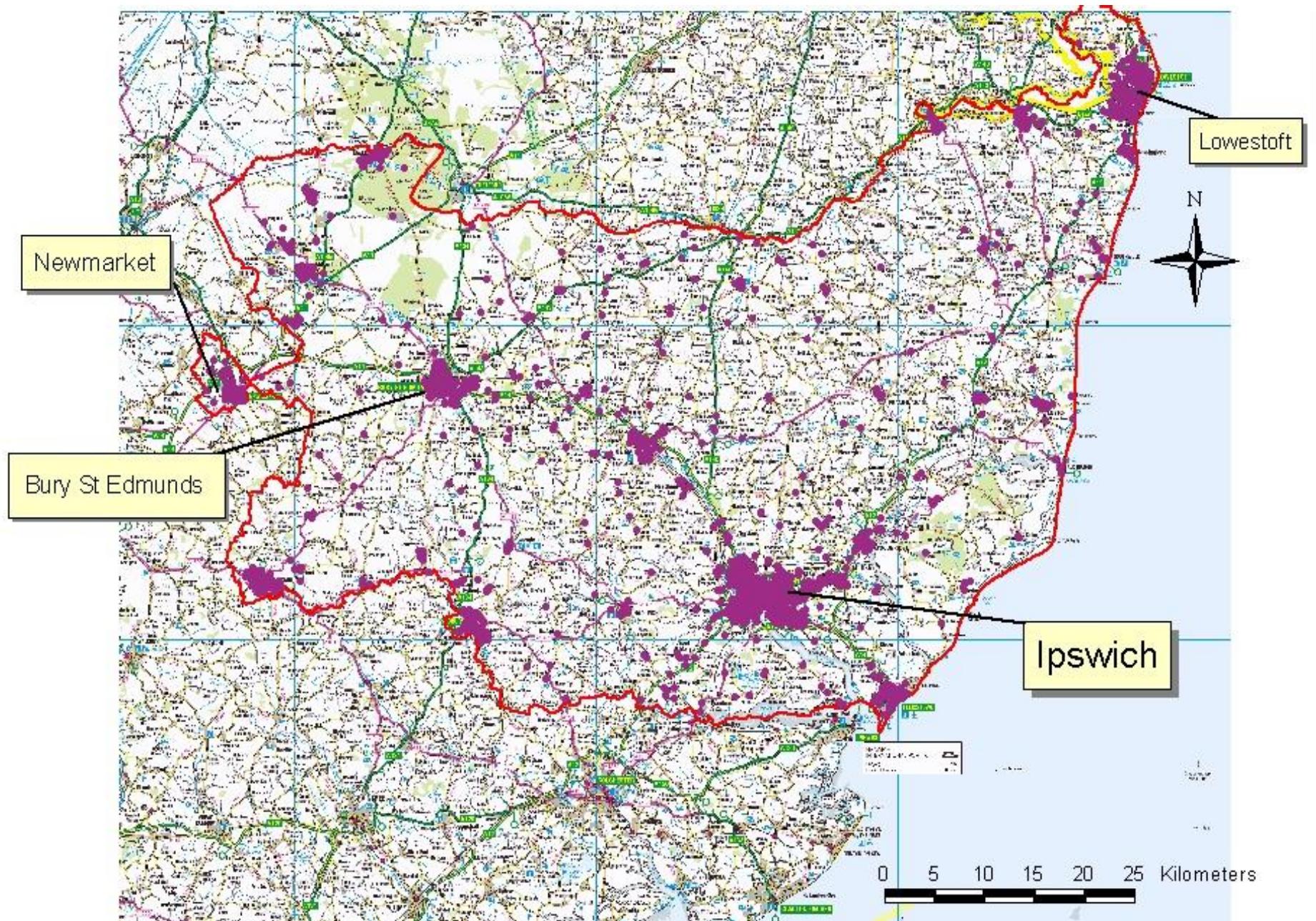
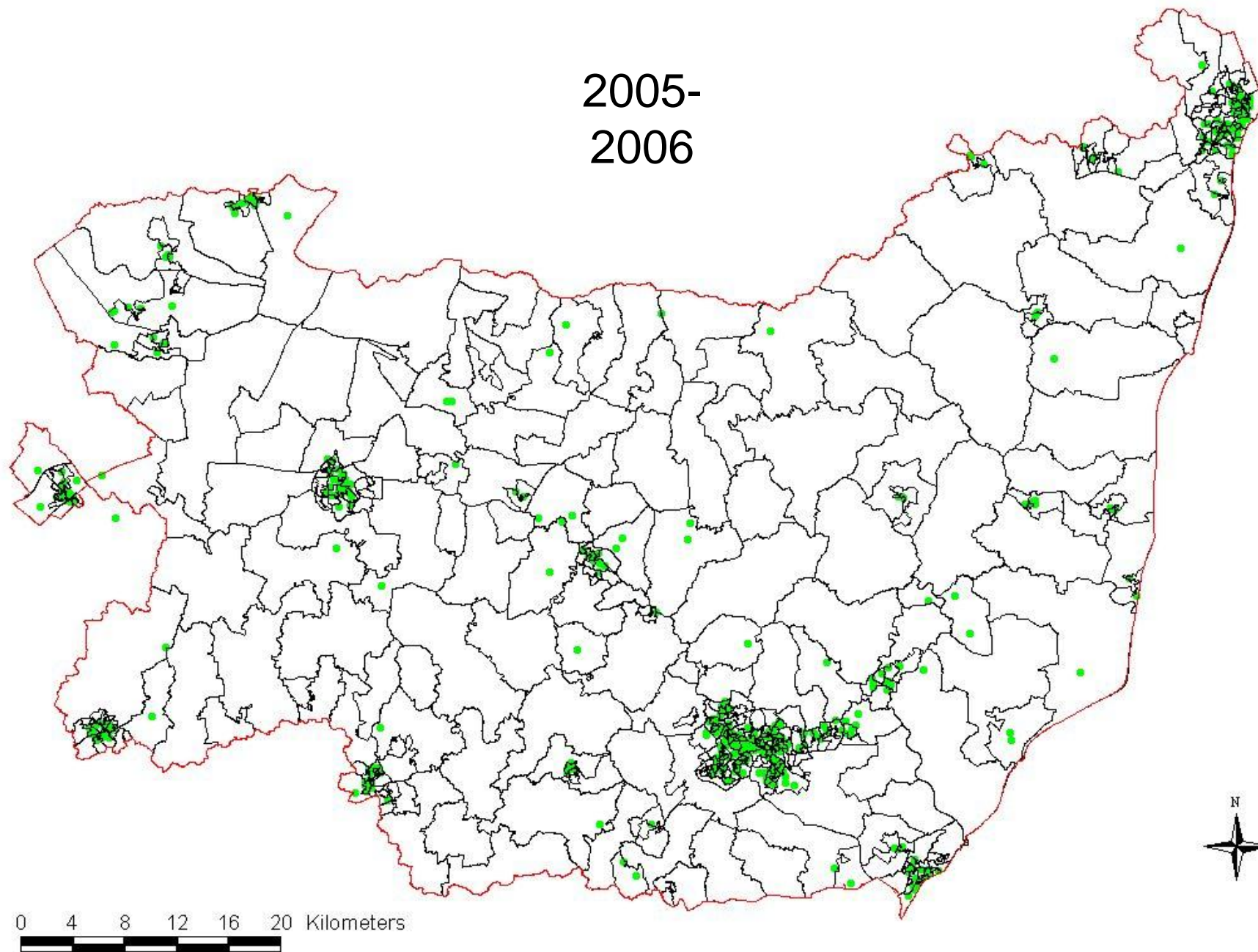
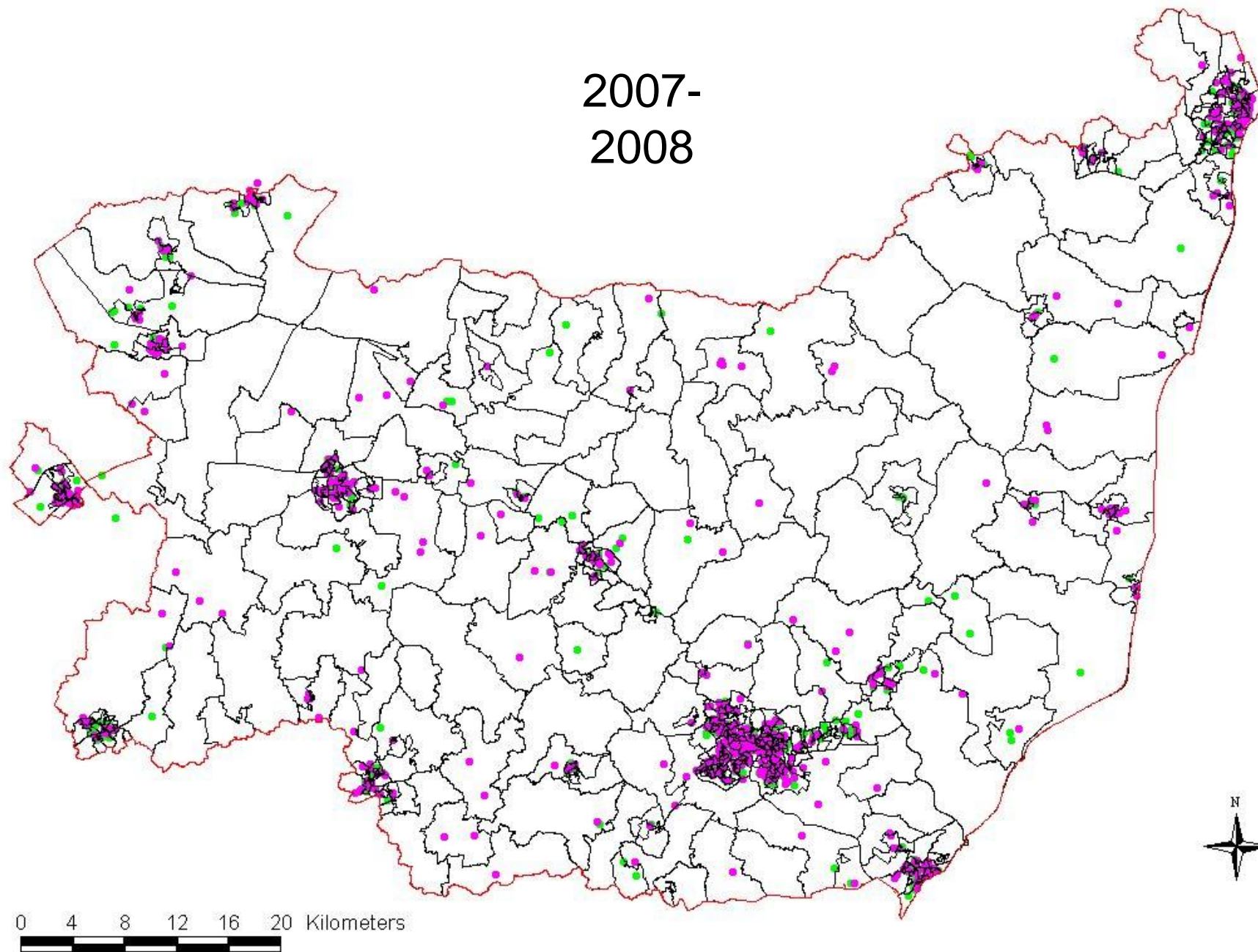


Figure 1: The Geographical Distribution of Incidents of Hate crime 2005 - 2012

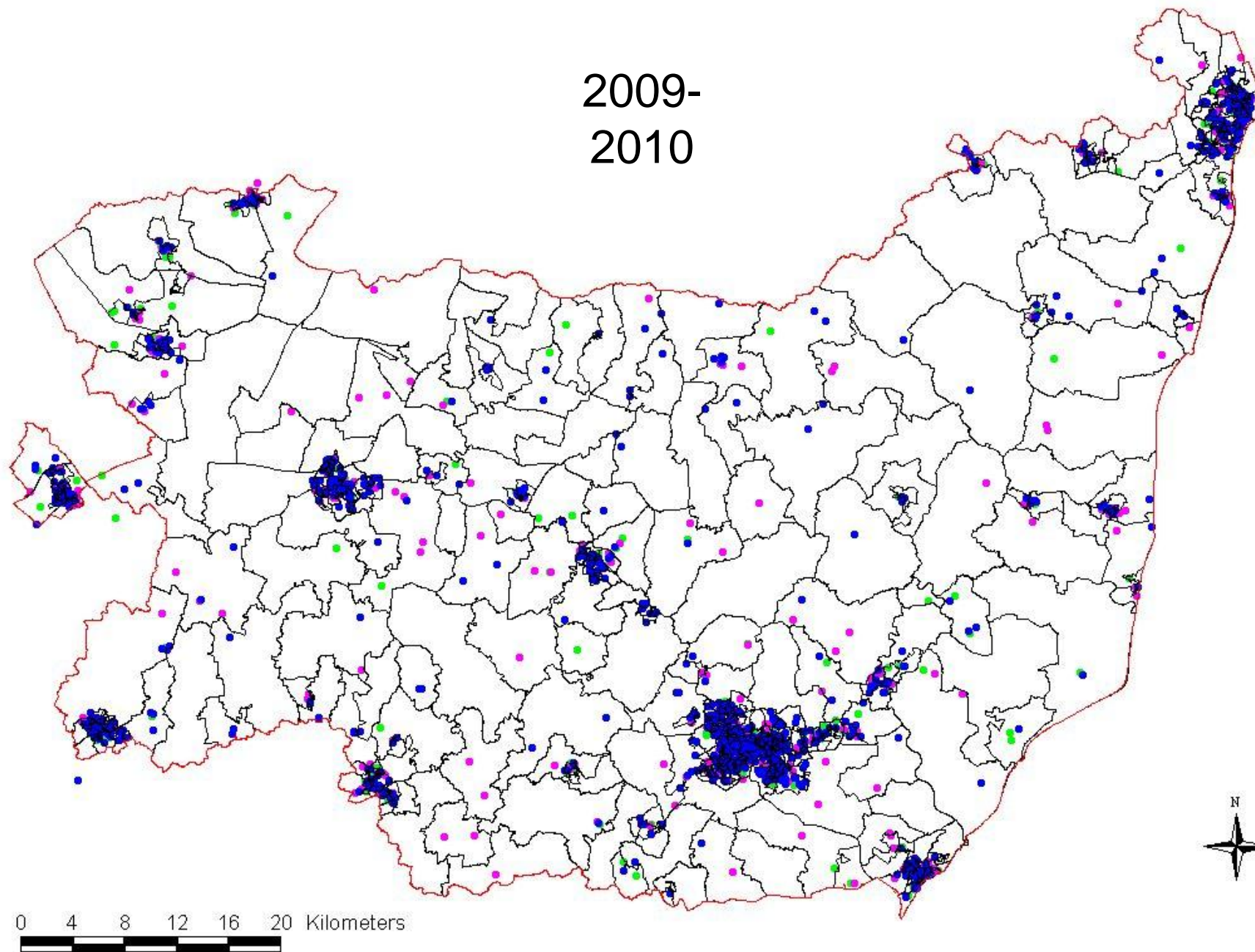
2005-
2006



2007-
2008



2009-
2010



2011-
2012

